



# ECO ADVENT

from St Mary's, Iffley

## NOW PRESENTING...

From plastic-free to Fairtrade, make sustainable presents your gift this year

### PLASTIC FREE

Remove plastic from your shopping list. Make sure wooden presents are FSC certified and that clothing is made from sustainable cotton. But it's not just the present you need to think about – consider the packaging it comes in too. Buy gifts with plastic-free packaging, and help reduce the estimated 100 million black bags that get filled with packaging waste over Christmas\*.

### SUPPORT A CHARITY

This year has been particularly hard for charities. Buy presents from one you support – most have extensive online shops, and put the environment at the centre of many of their products. Memberships make a great gift – as does a sponsored or adopted animal, plant, or even latrine! And if there's nothing you want yourself, suggest someone makes a donation to charity on your behalf.

### DIY DOES IT

If you really want to make a green impact, create your own gifts this year. From edible treats to crafty creations, choose your materials carefully, reuse where you can, and give in the knowledge you are helping the environment.

## BUY LOCAL

Small-scale, local sellers often tick the environmental box. Whether you're after an edible gift, a voucher to post, or something to go under the tree, there are a huge number of local shops that support sustainability. [independentoxford.com](http://independentoxford.com) is an online directory of independent businesses, with the facility to search under sustainability.

## FAIRTRADE

Think globally and buy Fairtrade this year. Simple shopping choices will help sustainability, prices, and working conditions across the developing world. With two excellent Fairtrade shops in Oxford (Headington and the city centre), and many edible products available at larger food stores, Christmas provides the perfect opportunity to support international communities – and their local environment.

\* OnePoll.com research commissioned by GP Batteries



## GIVE A LITTLE...

This year, many in our community will have spent a huge amount of time alone. If you know of anyone who can't see family at Christmas, or maybe don't have family to visit, take round a mince pie, or drop a card through their door. You could decorate your windows with a festive greeting to bring a warming message to those on a winter walk. Whatever you do, make sure you follow the Government guidelines, and stay safe. And before you knock on their door, consider your neighbour's approach to the pandemic too.